# E. Phillips Oppenheim COPYRIGHT 1915 BY OTIS F. WOOD

(Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.) Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.)
Santord Quest, master criminologist of the world, finds that in bringing to justice Macdougal, the murderer of Lord Ashleigh's daughter, he has but just entered a life-and-death struggle with a mysterious master criminal. In a hidden hut in Prof. Ashleigh's garden he has seen an anthropoid ape skeleton and a living inhuman creature, half monkey, half man, destroyed by fire. In his rooms at intervals have appeared from nowhere two black boxes with sarcastic and threatening notes signed with a pair of armless, threatening hands, representing those which have already figured in a diamond robbery. With his secretary, Laura, and his assistant, Lenora, he follows the trail of Macdougal, who escaped on his way to prison, and finds Macdougal's dead body in a cave on a lonely hillside. After a thrilling escape from two thugs who try to kill him he returns to his rooms to find his valet. Box Erown, and a Miss Quigg murdered, and Police Inspector French investigating.

# FIFTH INSTALLMENT. ON THE RACK.

## CHAPTER XII.

OR the moment a new element had been introduced into the horror of the little tableau. All eyes were fixed upon Quest, who had listened to the inspector's dubious words with a supercilious smile upon his lips.

"Perhaps," he suggested, "you would like to ask me a few questions?" "Perhaps I may feel it my duty to do so," the inspector replied gravely "In the first place, then, Mr. Quest, will you kindly explain the condition of your clothes?"

Quest looked down at himself quickly More than ever he realized the significance of his disheveled appearance.

"I traveled from number ten tower, Just outside New York, on top of a ireight car," he said grimly. wasn't a very comfortable ride."

'Perhaps you will explain what made you take it, then?" the inspector con Quest shrugged his shoulders.

There you are, then, ne, replied. This morning I decided to make an attempt to clear up the mystery of Macdongal's disappearance. I sent on my secretary. Miss Laura, to make triends with the section boss, and Lenora and I went out by automobile a little later. We instituted a search on a new principle, and before very long we found Macdongal's body. That's one up against you, I think inspector.

Macdougal's disappearance. I sent on my secretary, Miss Laura, to make triends with the section boss, and Lenora and I went out by automobile a little later. We instituted a search on a new principle, and before very long we found Macdougal's body. That's one up against you, I think inspector. Very tikely the inspector observed. The the two young ladies, at Miss Lenora's wish, to superintend the removal of the body. I myself had an engagement to deliver over her jewels to Mis. Rheinholdt here at midday. It returned to where my automobile was attacked by two thugs near the section house. I got away from them, ran to the tower house to try to stop the house

can quietly to dust his clothes. The inspector stopped him. 'llon t do that," he said

Quest paused in his task and laid brush.

"Any more questions?"
"Where is your automobile?"
"No idea," Quest replied. "I left it the road. When I jumped from the

treight car I took a taxicab to the pro-tessor's and called for him, as ar-

That is perfectly true," the profes-sor intervened, "Mr. Quest called for us, as arranged previously, at ten minules to twelve.

The inspector nodded.

Mr. Quest's story receives corroboration the matter is at an end. Where small Call round and see me whenever you wish." In every room in the house," Quest

answered shortly. "There is one outside inspector left the room almost im-itely. The professor crossed to mediately. The professor crossed to Quest's side. A kindly smile parted his

"My dear Mr. Quest," he exclaimed. our friend the inspectors head has been turned a little, beyond a doubt, by these horrible happenings! Permit me to assure you, for one, that I look upon his insinuations as absurd." "The man has gone off his head." Laura declared anguity.

"It will be all right directly he comes back," Lenora whispered, laying, her hand upon Quest's arm. "If only some one would give me my jewels and let me go!" Mrs. Rhemholdt

The door opened and the inspector re-

appeared. He was looking graver than Quest," he announced, "your nith is

useless—in fact, a little worse than use-less. The operator at number ten has been found murdered at the back of the tower'

Quest started. ought not to have left him to those thugs," he murmured regretfully.
"There is no automobile of yours in the vicinity," the inspector continued.
"nor any news of it. I thick it will be as well now, Quest, for this matter to take its obvious course. Will you, first of all, hand over her jewels to Mrs. Rheinholdt?"

Quest drew the keys of the safe from his pocket, crossed the room and swung open the safe door. For a moment after-ward he stood transfixed. His arm, half outstretched, remained motionless. Then

turned slowly around.

The jewels have been stolen," he announced with unnatural caim Mrs. Rheinholdt pushed her way for-eard, wringing her hands. "Stolen again?" she cried. "Mr. Quest!

Inspector were there," Quest declared.

"They were there, Quest declared, when I left the house this morning. It seems probable, he added, "that the same person who is responsible for this double tragedy has also taken the The inspector laid his hand heavily

The inspector laid his hand heavily upon Quest's shoulder.
"It does seem as though that might be so," he assented grindy. "You will kindly consider yourself under arrest. Quest Ladies and gent'emen, will you clear the room now, if you please? The ambulance I telephoned for is outside." The professor, who had been looking been so much upset today that the exercise "Mr. French," he said carnests and carnests and the professor's voice.

"I think I shall walk, Craig, I have been so much upset today that the exercise will do me good. I will be exeras though dazed, suddenly intervened.
"Mr. Frengh," he said carnestly, "I am convinced that you are making a great mistake. In arresting and taking away Mr. Quest you are removing from us the light coat from my hed room."

For a moment the shock of relief was so great that she almost lost consciousness. A moment or two later she heard one man who is likely to be able to clear the

this mystery." The inspector pushed him gently to

You will excuse me, professor," he "but this is no matter for argu-if Mr. Quest can clear himself, will be more glad than I." Quest shrugged his shoulders.

ambulance men came and de-i with their grim burden, the parted with their grim burden, the loom on the ground floor was locked and sealed, and the house was soor empty except for the two girls. To ward 3 o'clock Lenora went out and returned with a newspaper. She opened it out upon the table and they both pored over it:

WELL-KNOWN CRIMINOLOGIST ARRESTED FOR DOUBLE TRAGEDY.

Sanford Quest, the famous New York criminologist, was arrested at noon to-day, charged with the murder of his valet. Ross Brown, and Miss Quigg. Salvation Army canvasser. The crime geems to be mixed up in some mysterious fashion with others. John D. Martin, of signal tower No. 10, offered by Quest as an alibi, was found dead behind his tower. Quest claimed that he hind his tower. Quest claimed that he traveled from the signal tower to New York on a freight train, leaving his autmobile behind, but neither machine nor chauffeur have been discovered Justice Thorpe has refused to con-

"He's a guy, that Justice Thorpe, and so's the idiot who wrote this stuff!" Laura exclaimed, thrusting the paper away from her. "I guess the professor was dead right when he told French

was dead right when he told French he was locking up the one man who could clear up the whole show."

Lenora noded thoughtfully.
"The professor spoke up like a man." she agreed. "but Laura, I want to ask you something. Did you notice his servant—that man Craig?"
"Can't say I did particularly," Laura admitted.

admitted. "Twice," Lenora continued. "I thought

to try to stop the Lenora commenced a rambling acimped out on the last car from the signal arm."

There was a dead silence. Quest began quietly to dust his clothes. The by his side, a pile of manuscript, and pen in his hand. They could even catch the look of sympathy on his face as he listened attentively. Suddenly Lenora almost broke off. She gripped Laura by the arm. The door of the study had been opened slowly, and Craig, carrying a bundle, paused for a moment on the threshold. He glanced nervously toward the professor, who seemed unaware of his entrance. Then he moved stealthily toward the fire-place, stooped down and committed something to the flames. The relief on his face as he stood to the flames. his face, as he stood up, was obvious.
"All I can do for Mr. Quest, young "I shall have to ask you to excuse me for a moment," he said, "while I ring up number ten signal tower. "If you will forgive my saying so, you are a little overexcited just now. Take my advice and rest for a short time

> He laid the receiver down and the reflection on the mirror faded away. Lenora started up and hastily her coat and hat, which were still lying on the chair.

> "I am going right down to the professor's," she announced.
> "What do you think you can do there?" Laura asked. "I am going to see if I can find out what that man burned," she replied. "I

> will be back in an hour. Laura walked with her as far as th street car, and very soon afterward Lenota found herself knocking at the professor's front door. Craig admitted her almost at once. For a moment he seemed to shiver as he recognized her. The weakness, however, was only mo-mentary. He showed her into the study with grave deference. The professor was still immersed in his work. He

greeted her kindly, and with a little sigh laid down his pen.
"Well, young lady," he said, "have you thought of something I can do?"
She took no notice of the chair to which he pointed, and rested her hand upon his shoulder.

Professor," she begged, "go and see Mr. Quest! He is in the Tombs prison, it would be the kindest thing any one could possibly do." The professor glanced regretfully at his manuscript, but he did not hesitate.

He rose promptly to his feet.
"If you think he would appreciate it.
I will go at once," he decided. Her face shone with gratitude. That is really kind of you, profes

I will send for my coat and we will go together, if you like," he suggested. She smiled I am going the other way, back to

Georgia square," she explained. "No please, don't ring. I can find my way She hurried from the room. Outside In the hall she paused, for a moment, listening with beating heart. By the side wall was a hat rack with branching pegs, from which several coats were the side with the side wall was a listening begs.

She slipped quietly behind ter. Presently the professor ame out of the room "My coat, please, Craig," she heard im say. Her heart sank. Craig was coming in her direction. Her discovery seemed certain. Then, as his hand was half stretched out to remove one of the gar-The ments, she heard the professor's voice.

cise will do me good. I will have the have no secrets from my master." the professor leave the house. Very

place. The hall was empty. She crossed it with noiseless footsteps, slipped into the study and moved stealthily to the fireplace. There was a little heap of ashes in miss." one distinct spot. She gathered them up He opened the doors of the garage in her handkerchief and secreted it in leaving the keys in the lock, and they

The inspector will have his, little lose of the observed dryly. It's all right toward the door and stepped quietly better. The observed dryly. It's all right toward the door and stepped quietly better. It is all right toward the state town one. Without call, if you are making a deed to the foot of the professor is altifulation. Then the study of the foot of the professor is altifulation. Then the foot of the professor remained the foot of the professor remained the foot of the walked swiftly up the drive and turned toward the state, hoping every the foot of the walked swiftly up the drive and turned a few minutes afterward the two girls were examining the ashes with the aid of Quest's microscope. Among the little pile was one fragment at the sight of

which they both exclaimed. It was dis-tinctly a shred of charred muslin em-broidery. Lenora pointed toward it triimphantly "Isn't that evidence?" she demanded. Let's ring up Inspector French." Laura shook her head doubtfully.

"It's evidence enough for us to go to sage," she Craig, though! What we have got to do presently."

s to get a confession out of him, some-now!" Laura studied her companion, for oment, curiously.
Taking some interest in Mr. Quest.

kid, ain't you?" Lenora looked up. Then her head suddenly sank into her hands. She knew quite well that her secret had es-caped her. Laura patted her shoulder. "That's all right, child," she said

"What is it?" he faltered. " What do you want?"
| "Just this," Lenora said firmly. suspect you to be guilty of the crime which Sanford Quest is in prison

am going to have you questioned. f you are innocent you have nothing to fear. If you are guilty there will the some one here before long who "Not so fast," she advised. "French is a good sort in his way, but he's prejudiced just now against the boss. I'm not sure that this evidence would go far by itself." she told him. "I shall return

> "Iton't go," he begged suddenly "Don't leave me." She turned around. "Why not?"

He drew nearer. Once more the few inches of blue steel flashed out between them.
"None of your games," she warned him. "I am in carnest, and I am not afraid to shoot. "I won't come any nearer," he prom-

Left-"If you move

I shall shoot!"

Right-"The jewels

have been stolen!"

Lower - They

changed with mar-

asserted confidently. The only trouble is that while I am dodging about like this I cannot devote myself properly to the task of running down this fiend of the Hands. Just one moment, professor, while I send off a message, he continued, opening the little instrucontinued, opening the little instru-ment. "Where are you. Lenora?" he signaled. "Send me word and I will fetch you. I am in my own house for the present. Let me know that you are

Safe."
The professor leaned back, smoking one of Quest's excellent eigars. He was beginning to show signs of the liveliest

"Quest," he said, "I wish I could induce you to dismiss the extraordinary supposition of yours concerning my servant traig. The man has been with me for the best part of twenty years He saved my life in South America; we have traveled in all parts of the world. He has proved himself to be exemplary, a faithful and devoted servant. I thought it absurd. Mr. Quest, when 'you were suspected of these crimes. I should think it even more ridiculous to associate Craig with them in any way." in any way.

Then perhaps you will tell me. Quest suggested, "where he is now, and why he has gone away." That doe not look like complete innocence, does

The professor sighed.

Appearances are nothing, he de-clared. Traig is a man of highly nerv-ous susceptibilities. The very ries of boing suspected of anything so terrible would be enough to drive him almost out of his mind. I am convinced that we shall find him at home presently, with some reasonable explanation of his Quest paced the room for a few mo-

ments, moodily. There was a certain amount of reason in the professor's point of view. "Anyway. I cannot stay here much

longer, unless I mean to go back to the Tembs," he declared. "Surely," the professor suggested, your innocence will very soon be established?

"There is one thing which will hap-pen, without a doubt." Quest replied. "My auto and the chauffeur will be discovered. I have insisted upon in-quiries being sent out throughout the State of Connecticut. They tell me, too, that the police are hard on the scent of Red Gallagher and the other man. Unless they get wind of this and sell me blace. Close to the corner from which purposely, their arrest will be the end Lenora had sent her wireless message of my troubles. To tell you the truth, to him, he stooped and picked up a professor. Quest concluded "it is not Lenora had sent her wireless incssage professor. Quest concluded. "It is not to him, he stooped and picked up a of myself I am thinking at all just now,

the garage, you mean? A plucky young woman she must, be."
"She has a great many other good

qualities besides courage. Quest de-clared. "Women have not counted for much with me, professor, up till now. iny more than they have done. I should think, with you, but I tell you frankly, if any one has burn a bair of that girl a head I will have their lives, whatever the penalty may be! It is for her sake—to find her—that I broke out of prison and that I am trying to keep free. The wisest thing to do, from my own point of view, would be to give myself up. I can't bring myself to do that without

cover her whereabouts, you can depend upon me. Personally, I am convirced that Craig will return to me with some phusible explanation as to what happened. In that case he will de less bring news of the young lady.' Quest, for the third or fourth t moved cautiously toward the window. His expression suddenly changed. "He glanced downward, frowning slightly, An alert light flashed into his eyes. "They're after me!" he exclus "hit still, professor."

The story of THE BLACK BOX will be continued in the Home Edition of The Times tomorrow.

Coughs, Sore Throat

'The Grip is here with all it! distressing symptoms of Influenza Catarrh, pains and soreness in the Head and Chest, Sore Throat and aching bones.

Be sure to keep Dr. Humphreys 'Seventy-seven" handy and take a dose at the first chill or shiver, to insure best results.

If you wait till your bones begin

to ache, it may take longer. Pleasant to take, handy to carry

fits the vest pocket.

The and \$1.00 at all druggists of Humphreys' House, Medicine Co. 56 William Street, New York,

LOANS HORNING

velous rapidity.

soothingly. "We'll see him through this, somehow or other."

"iou don't mind." Lenora faltered. without raising her eyes.
"Not I!" sne promptly replied. "I'm not looking for trouble of that sort."
Lenora raised her head. There was an immense relief to her tace.
"I am so glad," she said. "I was afraid sometimes—living here with him. You know—"

It's no use unless you can get hold of Craig quickly." Laura said. "He getting the scares, as it is."
"I'll do it." Quest decided. "Call the guard, Laura."
She obeyed. The man came good-tatusedly toward them.
"Well, young people, not quarreling. It's no use unless you can get hold of Craig quickly." Laura said. "He guard, Laura."
"I'll do it." Quest decided. "Call the guard, Laura."
She obeyed. The man came good-tatusedly toward them.
"Well, young people, not quarreling."
"Have you said anything to Mr. through the bars.

'Not a word."

ed to a stool.

message:

study.

An expression of relief shone for a noment upon his face. Lenora point-

from the house. Here, at the far cor-ner, she drew a little pocket wireless from her bag and set it on the win-

I have Craig here in the profes-sor's garage, locked up. If our plan has succeeded, come at once.

There was no reply. She sent the message again and again. Suddenly,

The guard swung open the wicket in front of Quest's cell.

she could to Quest.
"Look here," she said. "Lenora's crazy with the idea that Craig has done

these jobs-Craig, the professor's servant, you know. We used the photo-telesma yesterday afternoon and saw

O. K. Coming.

I am waiting for you,

with beating heart:

Laura interrupted her with an easy

"You don't need to worry," she as-Lenora rose to her feet. She was title herself again. There was a new look of determination in her face,

wite herself again on the face.

"Laura," she exclaimed, "we will she obeyed without a word. She ier the obeyed without a word. She ier the place locked the door securely, and made her way round to the other side of the garage—the side hidden the house. Here, at the far corticle wireless. save Mr. Craig! I have a plan. Listen!

RAIG's surprise was real enough as he opened the back door of dow sill. Very slowly she sent her the professor's house on the following morning and found Lenora standing on the threshold.

"I am very sorry, Miss Lenora." he apologized. "The front doorbell must be out of order. I certainly didn't hear it ring. Mr. Ashleigh is in his study, if you wish to see him."

Lenora smiled pleasantly. To tell you the truth," she said, " really do not want to see him -at least, not just yet. I came to this door be cause I wanted a little talk with you." Craig's attitude was perfect. mystified but he remained respectful. "Will you come inside?" he invited. She shook her head.

"I am afraid," she confided, "of what am going to say being overheard. come with me down to the garage for a She pointed to the wooden building which stood about fifty yards away from the house. Craig besitated: "If you wish it, miss," he assented doubtfufly, "I will get the keys."

He disappeared for a moment and again almost afterward with a bunch of keys in his hand. He seemed a little disturbed. "I am doing as you wish, Miss Le-

'Perhans not." Lenora replied, "but I have. The professor is a dear," she added hastily, "but he is too wrapped up in his scientific work to be able to see things like men of ordinary commor sense. "That is office true" Craig admitted Ashinish has only one idea in its

life. This way, then, if you please,

him burn something in the professor's study. Lenora went up straight away got hold of the ashes. Smart girl. Quest murmured, nod-"I am doing as you wish, Miss Leding approvingly, "Well?"

"There are distinct fragments, shout here likely to overhear, and I Laura continued, "of embroidered stuff such as the Salvation Army girl might have been wearing. We put them on one side, but they ain't enough exi-dence i enora's idea is that you should get hold of Craig and hypnotize him

a confession

That's all right," Quest replied, "but w am I to get hold of him?" Laura glamed once more carelessely around to where the guard stood Lenora's gone up to the professor's "lance again this afternoon. She is going to three try to set hold of Craig and lock him in the garage. If she succeeds, she will garage, locked up. If our plan has asked timidly. "This matter has upse

Have you said anything to Mr. through the bars. Ashleigh, miss?" the man asked pite-"I want you to come inside for a oment," he said. moment.

"What for?" the man demands."
"I want you to come inside for a "I want you to come inside for a moment." Quest repeated softly, lock the door, please, take the off your bunch, and come inside. the key The man hesitated, but all the time his fingers were fumbling with the keys. Quest's\*lips continued to move The warder opened the door and entered. A few minutes later Quest passed the key through the window to have a way was standard way.

passed the key through the window to Laura, who was standing on guard. "Come in." he whispered. "Don't step over him. He is sitting with his back to the wall, just outside."

Laura obeyed, and entered the cell. For a moment they were breathless with alarm. A passing warder looked down their avenue. Eventually, however, he turned in the other direction. "Off with your cost and skyt like." "Off with your coat and skrt like lightning, Laura," Quest ordered. "This has got to be done quickly or not at

during a pause, there was a little has flash upon the plate. A message was all coming to her. She transcribed it Without a word, and with marvelous rapidity, the change was effected Laura produced from her handbag a wig which she pinned inside her hat and passed over to Quest. Then re flung herse'f on the bed and drew the

front of Quest's cell.

"Young woman to see you, Quest," he announced. "Ten minutes, and no loud talking, please."

Quest moved to the bars. It was the whispered, pointing to the warder, who stood there. She wasted very little time in preliminaries. Having satisfied herself that the guard was out of hearing, she leaned as close as whe could to these leaned as close as where the weard of the warder. "Half an hour or so," Quest answered. "Don't bother about him. I shall drop the key back through the window."

A moment or two later Quest walked deliberately down the corridor of the prison, crossed the pavement, and steeped into a taxicab. He reached ateoped into a taxicab. He reached Gorgia square at five minutes to three. A glance up and down assured him that the house was unwatched. He let himself in with his own key and laughed softly as he caught sight of his reflect on in the mirror. The house reflect on in the mirror. The house was strangely quiet and descrited, but he wasted no time in looking around. He ran quickly upstairs, paused in his He ran quickly upstairs, paused in his sting room only to take a cigar from the cab'net, passed, on to the bedroom, three Laura's clothes off, and, after a few moments' hesitation, selected from the wardrobe a rough tweed suit with a thick lining and lanels. Just as he was thing his tie, the 'itt's wireless which he had hid on the table at his a de began to record a message. He taked at the clock, it was exactly three.

handkerchief, which from the marking handkerchief, which from the marking it is Lenora."

The professor nodded sympatheticalle to professor nodded sympatheticalle to professor nodded sympatheticalle to professor nodded sympatheticalle. by the trampling of several feet. He set his teeth. For a single moment his own danger was forgotten. A feeling which he ulter, failed to recognize robbed him of its indomitable nerve. He realized with vivid but scarcely displeasing potency a weakness in the armor of his complete self-control "I've got to find that girl." he mut-

tered. Craig can go to h=1?

He turned away and approached the house. The front door stood open and he made his way at once to the library The professor, who was sitting at his desk surrounded by a pile of books and papers, addressed him, as he enter-

and papers, addressed tim, as he entered, without looking up.
"Where on earth have you been,
Craig"? he inquired petulantly. "I
have rung for you six times. Have I
not told you never to leave the place
without orders?" without orders?

"It is not craig," Quest replied quiet-, "It is L professor—Sanford Quest." The professor swung round in his chair and eyed his visitor in blank astonishment.
"Guest?" he exclaimed. "God bless "Quest?" he exclaimed. "God bless y soul! Have they let you out al-

ready, then?"
"I came out," Quest replied grimly. "Sit tight and listen to me for a moment, will you?"
"You came out?" the professor repeated, looking a little dazed. "You mean that you escaped?"
Quest nodded.

Quest nodded.
"Perhaps I made a mistake," he admitted, "but here I am. Now listen, professor. I know this pill be painful to you, but give me your best attention for a few minutes. These young women assistants of mine have formed a theory of their own about the murder in my flat and the robbery of the jewels. Hold on to your enair, professor. They believe that the guilty person was Craig."

son was Craig."
The professor's face was almost pitiful in its blank amazement. His mouth was wide open like a child's, words seemed absolutely denied to him "That's their theory." Quest went on. "They may be right or they may be

wrong-Lenora, at any rate, has col-lected some shreds of evidence. They hatched a scheme between them, clever enough in its way. They locked Craig op in your garage and got me out of the Tombs in Laura's clothes. I have come straight up to find your garage open and Lenora missing The professor rose to lously a tremendous effort to adjust

nis ideas.

"Craig locked up in my garage?" he murmered. "Craig guilty of those murders? Why, my dear Mr Quest, a more harmless, a more inoffensive, peace-loving and devoted servant than John craig never trod this earth." "Maybe." Quest replied, "but come out here. Mr. Ashleigh.

The professor followed his companion

Quest showed him the out to the garage. Quest showed him the open door and the marks of footsteps around where he had picked up the handkerchief. "Now," he said, "what has become of

your man Craig, and what has become of my assistant, Lenora?" "Perhaps we had better search the house," the professor suggested. My dear Mr. Quest, you little know-"Where is he, then" Quest in

rupted. The professor could do nothing but look around him a little vaguely, gether they went back to the and searched it without result they returned once more to the garage. I am going back. Quest amounted. My only chance is the wireless. I Lenora is alive or at liberty, she will

For Colds, Influenza,